A marked up version of the title appears in Appendix A with additions underlined and deletions in brackets.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 1-3 and 11-15. Please substitute the amended claims below into the application. A marked-up version with additions underlined and deletions in brackets is appears at Appendix B. Please add new Claims 28 and 29.

4. (Amended) An adjustable pipe wrench, comprising:

a slide bar having a gripping portion;

an upper jaw mounted pivotally to the slide bar and mounting a spring between the upper jaw and the slide bar;

a lower jaw, slidably mounted on the slide bar, said lower jaw having a lower portion extending toward the gripping portion, wherein the spring biases the upper jaw toward the lower jaw; and

a brake lever, pivotally mounted on a portion of the lower jaw and spring-biased against said lower jaw wherein a portion of the lever extends longitudinally, and substantially the same length toward the gripping portion as the lower jaw extends longitudinally toward the gripping portion, and wherein a user may adjust a position of the lower jaw on the slide bar by actuating said lever and moving said lower jaw relative to said slide bar.

5. (Amended) The wrench of Claim 4, wherein the lever has an operation portion angled so it extends generally parallel to the slide bar.

6. (Amended) The wrench of Claim 4, wherein the lower jaw has a thumb-resting portion to facilitate movement by a thumb of an operator.

7. (Amended) The wrench of Claim 4, wherein the lever has an orifice for slidably mounting around the slide bar.

8. (Amended) The wrench of Claim 4, wherein the slide bar further comprises a ratcheting mechanism, said ratcheting mechanism including a surface of the brake lever and teeth on a surface of the slide bar.

10. (Amended) The wrench of Claim 4, further comprising gripping surfaces on the upper jaw and lower jaw.

16. (Amended) An adjustable hand clamp, comprising:

a slide bar having a gripping portion;

an upper jaw mounted pivotally to the slide bar and [mounting] a spring mounted between the upper jaw and the slide bar;

a lower jaw, slidably mounted on the slide bar, said lower jaw having a first portion extending toward the upper jaw and a second portion extending in an opposite direction toward the gripping portion, wherein the spring biases the upper jaw toward the lower jaw; and

a brake lever, pivotally mounted on one of said portions of the lower jaw and spring-biased against said second portion of the lower jaw, wherein a portion of the lever extends longitudinally, and substantially the same length toward the gripping portion as the second portion of the lower jaw extends longitudinally toward the gripping portion, and wherein a user adjusts a position of the lower jaw on the slide, by repositioning the lower jaw with a thumb.

17. (Amended) The clamp of Claim 16, wherein the lever has an orifice for slidably mounting around the slide bar.

18. (Amended) The clamp of Claim 16, wherein the slide bar further comprises a ratcheting mechanism, said ratcheting mechanism including a surface of the brake lever and teeth on a surface of the slide bar.

20. (Amended) The clamp of Claim 16, further comprising gripping surfaces on the upper jaw and lower jaw.

21. (Amended) A method of grasping an object with one hand using an adjustable hand tool having a brake lever, the method comprising:

providing the object and the hand tool;

gripping the hand tool with one hand;

adjusting a gap between jaws of the hand tool with the same hand, using a lower jaw and a pivotable upper jaw of the hand tool; and

grasping the object.

24. (Amended) An adjustable pipe wrench, comprising:

a slide bar having a gripping portion;

an upper jaw mounted to the slide bar;

a lower jaw, slidably mounted on the slide bar, said lower jaw having a first portion extending toward the upper jaw and a second portion extending in an opposite direction toward the gripping portion; and

a brake lever, pivotally mounted on the lower jaw and spring-biased on a second portion of the lower jaw, wherein a portion of the lever extends longitudinally, and substantially the same length toward the gripping portion as the second portion of the lower jaw extends longitudinally toward the gripping portion, and wherein the brake lever and the slide bar form a bar-engaging mechanism, and a user may open the jaws with a thumb, disengaging the brake lever from the slide bar and urging the lower jaw away from the upper jaw.

28. (new) The clamp of Claim 16, wherein the lower jaw is subject to motion toward the upper jaw when the lever is engaged, and is subject to motion to and from the upper jaw when the lever is disengaged.

29. (New) An adjustable pipe wrench, comprising:

a slide bar having a gripping portion;

a lower jaw, slidably mounted on the slide bar, said lower jaw having a lower portion extending toward the gripping portion;

an upper jaw having a gripping surface, said upper jaw mounted pivotally to the slide bar and having a spring captured between said upper jaw and said slide bar, said spring biasing said upper jaw so that the gripping surface of said upper jaw is biased towards said lower jaw; and

a brake lever, pivotally mounted on a portion of the lower jaw and spring-biased against said lower jaw, wherein a portion of the lever extends longitudinally, and substantially the same length toward the gripping portion as the lower jaw extends longitudinally toward the gripping portion, and wherein a user may adjust a position of the lower jaw on the slide bar by actuating said lever and moving said lower jaw relative to said slide bar.